

Media Release

For Immediate Release: December 20, 2010

MASKWACIS CREE NATION TRUSTEE APPOINTED TO BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees of the Wetaskiwin Regional Public Schools is pleased to announce that the Maskwacis Cree Nation has appointed Dr. Shauna Bruno to be a trustee on the Wetaskiwin Regional Public Schools Board. The previous appointment was held by Trustee Carolyn Buffalo.

"The Board believes that to achieve the level of success we want for all students it is important that the Maskwacis Cree Nation people be full participants in the educational decision-making process. This belief is consistent with Government of Alberta direction and will help to ensure that Aboriginal people participate fully in educational governance at the provincial level so that they determine how educational services and programs are delivered to students," stated Board Chair Deanna Specht.



Dr. Shauna Bruno is a member of the Samson Cree Nation and is the daughter of Victor and Sophie Bruno. She is married to Barry Sernes and they are the proud parents of their teenage daughters; Koralee and Jacqueline.

Her educational journey includes earning a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Calgary, a Master's degree in First Nations Education and a Ph.D. with a specialization in Indigenous Peoples Education from the University of Alberta, Department of Educational Policy Studies.

Shauna was the Co-Director of the Aboriginal Teacher Education Program at the University of Alberta in the Faculty of Education. She has worked with different research teams at the U of A, one which involved developing a knowledge-based document for teacher preparation programs (histories, cultures, and current issues) around the schooling of First Nations, Metis, and Inuit children. She has taught for Northern Lakes College and has facilitated in community-based programs in Samson.

Dr. Bruno is currently a Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Alberta and involved in a research project exploring Urban Aboriginal schooling and educational issues and their policy implications. Shauna recently received the 2010 Aboriginal Role Models of Alberta Education Award.

"I am honored to serve as the new Maskwacis Trustee. I am passionate about Aboriginal education. My work has led me on this life-long journey in trying to help bring understanding to the complexity of the different ways of knowing across different cultures. Nurturing the diverse voices in our schools and communities is a priority for me," stated Dr. Bruno

For further information contact:

Deanna Specht, Chair
Board of Trustees
Wetaskiwin Regional Public Schools
780-387-5450

Dr. Terry Pearson
Superintendent of Schools
Wetaskiwin Regional Public Schools
780-352-6018 Email: pearson.t@wrps.ab.ca